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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
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June 8, 1944

Reserve

25 BILLION POUNDS OF  
MEAT FOR 1944

SAN FRANCISCO, June 8 --- An output of 25 billion pounds of meat for 1944 was predicted yesterday in Chicago by H. E. Reed, WFA Livestock and Meats Chief, in reviewing the operations of the War Meat Board on its first years anniversary. "This should make it possible for all wartime meat needs to be reasonably well met," he said, but pointed out that the physical job of marketing, slaughtering, processing and distributing this huge supply is and will continue to be extremely difficult.

During the day letters commending the operations of the board were received from Marvin Jones, WFA Director, Brig. General Carl A. Hardigg, head of Army QMC, and Chester Bowles, OPA head.

Government procurement of meat is now functioning smoothly to obtain all necessary war supplies with minimum disruption of civilian distribution and supplies, Reed said.

"A year ago," Reed, Board Chairman, disclosed "The Armed Services were unable to procure their current beef requirements, and found it difficult to obtain overseas hams and semi-boneless pork loins." Shipment of meat to lend lease recipients, territories and other war claimants was also behind schedule, while civilian supplies were also very tight, Reed stated.

"In contrast today," he continued, "The Armed Services have not only been able to meet current requirements, but also have built up necessary seasonal reserves. WFA Office of Distribution is meeting shipping commitments on schedule and has reserves of certain items. Civilian supplies are now available to all sections of the country in amounts nearly equal to very high demands."

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Reed commended livestock farmers for the splendid job they have been doing, and pledged cooperation of the War Meat Board and its advisory groups in helping to obtain the most efficient use of marketing manpower and facilities.

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APPLES TO BE AVAILABLE - All early crop apples will be available to civilian consumers through termination of War Food Order 83, requiring sale of lower grade and smaller size apples to authorized processors in certain counties of California, Washington and Oregon and some eastern states, it was announced here today by Donald E. Wilcox, Chief, Fruit and Vegetable Division in WFA office of distribution.

The original order was issued September 1943 to assure processors of apples at a time when demand for fresh fruit was so great that fresh market was threatening to absorb many of the lower grade apples ordinarily used for processing.

"Processing of apples from the 1943 crop is practically complete," Wilcox declared; "and harvest of summer apples from 1944 crop will commence soon. It is not desired that these apples be reserved for processors because they are of a variety and type suitable only for fresh consumption."

Estimates based on previous years production of all apples and this year's outlook indicate a total California crop of around 7,5 million bushels, one in Oregon of approximately 3 million, and a Washington harvest ranging from 25 to 30 million bushels.

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